

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

The allowance of claims 2, 6, 12, and 19 is noted with appreciation. Claims 3, 5, 8 and 9, which were merely objected to, have been rewritten in independent form and are now allowable.

Independent claims 1 and 16 have been amended to clarify important differences between the claimed invention and the Egger patent relied upon in the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b).

While there are some superficial similarities between the insulator of Egger and Applicants' holder for an elongated object or objects, there are essential differences, which are now clearly recited in independent claims 1 and 16.

For example, claim 1 now recites a U-shaped holding portion with a trough open at the top to receive and support an elongated object longitudinally in the trough along a longitudinal axis of the trough parallel to a bottom wall of the trough. Claim 1 also recites a slide defining a longitudinal extension of the trough along the longitudinal axis, the slide having a retaining element movable from an open position to a closed position in response to movement of the slide longitudinally in the trough along the longitudinal axis, and a guide extending longitudinally of the trough between the arms of the holding portion along the

longitudinal axis to guide this slide for movement longitudinally into the trough.

Claim 16 now recites a first part defining a trough for receiving and supporting the object longitudinally along a longitudinal axis of the trough parallel to a bottom wall of the trough; and a second part defining a longitudinal extension of the trough of the first part along the longitudinal axis, wherein the second part is a slide constructed so that the second part can be moved longitudinally into the trough of the first part along the longitudinal axis.

Referring to the drawing of Egger on page 2 of the Office Action, if the longitudinal axis of the trough of the first part is parallel to the bottom of the trough, then the slide of the second part is not a longitudinal extension of the trough along that longitudinal axis and does not move along that longitudinal axis. If the longitudinal axis is considered to extend in a direction from the first part to the second part, such a longitudinal axis would not be parallel to the bottom of the trough of the first part, but would be perpendicular thereto.

Accordingly, claims 1 and 16 and the claims dependent thereon should be allowed.

This application is now believed to be clearly in condition for allowance.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge to Deposit Account No. 50-1165 any fees under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 and 1.17 that may be required by this paper and to credit

any overpayment to that Account. If any extension of time is required in connection with the filing of this paper and has not been requested separately, such extension is hereby requested.

Respectfully submitted,

NHS:dmt

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